**Concordia University Department of Music**

presents

# New Chamber Music of Wolfgang Bottenberg

*Performers:*

Eleanore Milkman, mezzo-soprano; Liselyn Adams, flute
Geneviève Martineau, violin; Nancy Corwin, viola
Marjolaine Alziary, violoncello
Roger Parton and Lauretta Altman, piano

**Monday, May 13th, 2002 at 8pm**

Salle de concert
Oscar Peterson
Concert Hall

Program Notes by Wolfgang Bottenberg

The Sonata for Piano is a contribution to the very rich repertoire of this genre. It follows the traditional forms of the classical sonata: Sonata-allegro, ternary song form, rondo. Only the use of extended tonality and modality (the last movement is in the lydian mode) hint at its contemporary origin.

The Variations on "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes were commissioned by Peter Taylor of Vancouver as a birthday present for his wife Gillian, an amateur violist. I wanted this composition to be an accessible work which would be enjoyed by performers and listeners alike. As the variations develop, the theme gradually retreats when new ideas emerge, to re-appear in its initial freshness after a lively fugue.

Seasons of Life follows the poetic imagination of Shakspeare as he comments on youth and age. Four of the five songs are well known, lighthearted poems from various plays, while *That Time of Year* is a serious meditation on old age in the form of a sonnet. Its exquisite text reads as follows:

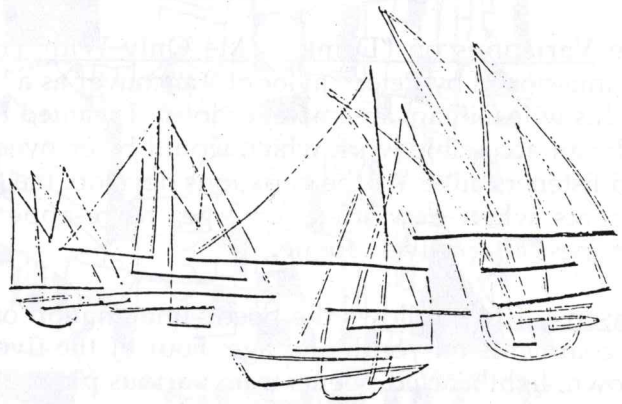
That time of year thou may'st in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruin'd choirs,where late the sweet birds sang

In me thou see'st the twilight of such day
As after sunset fadeth in the west,
Which by and by black night doth take away,
Death's second self, that seals up all the rest.

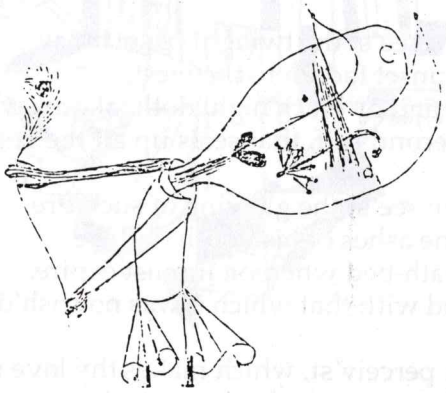
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire,
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie
As the death-bed whereon it must expire,
Consumed with that which it was nourish'd by:

This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

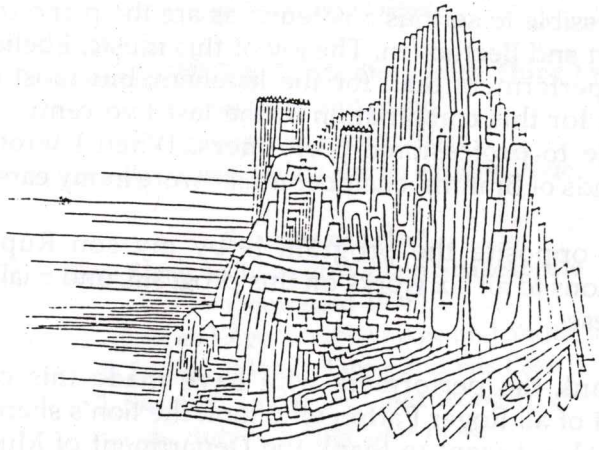
The Swiss painter Paul Klee (1879-1940) had a special affinity for music, which becomes apparent in form, themes, and temporal sequencing of his art. Drawings of Paul Klee is a musical interpretation of three of his graphic works.



Sailboats in gentle motion shows, beyond the obvious swaying of the sails, a subtle relationship of the numbers two and three. Sails and boats are in groups of two, while the triangularity of the sails hints at the number three. This is taken up by the music with its constant motion of triplets against duplets.



The Dance of the Sad Child shows a figure of uncertain childhood seemingly suffering from *Weltschmerz*. The music for this is a melancholy waltz in late romantic style.




The Organ Mountain is a strange place where incongruous architecture (unmanageable stairs, temples and churches) are placed in stone formations which resemble organ pipes and fantastic brass instruments. The composition for this is an organ toccata which takes its clues both from Bach and from Ravel.

The title of my cello sonata, Illuminations, refers to two different meanings of the word, which can stand either for 'enlightenment' or for decorative illustrations in sacred texts. The first movement of this composition is constructed exclusively from the pentatonic scale. The intention is an "enlightenment" to the brilliant harmonic potential of this oldest of melodic scales. The second movement is a musical manuscript illumination of the Marian antiphon *Alma redemptoris mater* (Benign Mother of the Redeemer), with text and melody by the monk Hermannus Contractus, who lived in the early eleventh century. The plainchant melody is quoted in its entirety, followed by two variations. The concluding toccata is meant to signify that enlightenment and wisdom are not only the fruit of meditation, but also of a well-directed active life.

The Piano Trio in D, written in the fall of last year, is a contribution to this wonderful genre of chamber music which should be accessible to serious amateurs, as are the piano trios of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. The joy of this music, I believe, is more for the performers than for the listeners, but most of the works written for this combination in the last two centuries are only accessible to professional performers. When I wrote this work, the sounds of Brahms' chamber music were in my ears.

The drawing opposite the program is by my son Rupert. It contains allusions to all six works on this program, and challenges you to find these.

I want to thank the performers who have made this concert possible, most of all Roger Parton who took the lion's share in its preparation. Also, I want to thank the Department of Music for generous support.

# Program

**Sonata for Piano ***
(composed spring 2000)
Allegro - Andante con moto - Vivace
*Roger Parton, piano*

**Variations on "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes"**
for viola and piano
(composed spring 2001)
*Nancy Corwin, viola; Lauretta Altman, piano*

**Seasons of Life ***
Five Songs to Texts of William Shakespeare
(composed 1998)
1. *Youth and Age:* Crabbed Age and Youth
2. *Spring:* It Was a Lover and His Lass
3. *Summer:* Under the Greenwood Tree
4. *Autumn:* That Time of Year
5. *Winter:* When Icicles Hang by the Wall

*Eleanore Milkman, mezzo-soprano; Liselyn Adams, flute; Lauretta Altman, piano*

***Intermission***

**Drawings of Paul Klee ***
for piano
(composed 1998)
1. Segelschiffe leicht bewegt
2. Tanz des trauernden Kindes
3. Orgelberg

*Roger Parton, piano*

**Illuminations**
for violoncello and piano
(composed 1997)
Prelude - Partita "Alma redemptoris mater" - Toccata
*Marjolaine Alziary, violoncello; Roger Parton, piano*

**Piano Trio in D ***
(composed fall 2001)
Allegro, ma non troppo - Andante con moto - Molto Allegro
*Geneviève Martineau, violin; Marjolaine Alziary, violoncello; Roger Parton, piano*

* First complete public performance

# Calendar of Events - May 2002

Salle de concert Oscar Peterson Concert Hall

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY**
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Montreal, Quebec, H4B 1R6
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**May 5 // 7:30pm**
**ENSEMBLE SINFONIA DE MONTRÉAL**
Artistic Director: Louis Lavigueur; Guest artist: Denis Brott, cello. Featuring orchestral works by Beethoven, Haydn & Saint-Saëns.
*Tickets at the OPCH box office: $10 in advance, $15 at the door.*

**May 6 and 7 // 8pm**
**ELECTROACOUSTIC STUDENT WORKS**
Featuring work by electroacoustic students of Mark Corwin, Rosemary Mountain, Ian Chuprun, Ivan Zavada, Michael Pinsonneault & Alexander Burton.
*Tickets at the door only: $5, free for students.*

**May 8 // 8pm**
**FREEDOM CONCERT**
A concert of original and traditional music that broadly explores the theme of Freedom. With New World Fusion vocalist, Barbara Lewis & Special Guest Celtic vocalist, Beverley McGuire.
*Tickets at the OPCH box office: $15 general admission, $10 student/seniors.*

**May 12 // 2pm**
**SUZUKI INSTITUTE**
Suzuki students of all ages will perform repertoire standards, directed by Dragan Djerkic.
*Admission is free of charge.*

**May 13 // 8pm**
**NEW CHAMBER MUSIC**
Featuring new chamber works for voice, flute, violin, viola, violoncello & piano by Wolfgang Bottenberg.
*Admission is free of charge.*

**May 16 // 7:30pm**
**A ROYAL GALA**
The 2nd Annual Royal West Academy Benefit Concert. A wonderful evening of music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Popper, Barber and Saint-Saens performed by members of the MSO & the Royal West Academy Honour Band.
*For information or reservations: (514) 977-1321.*

**May 26 // 2pm**
**COLLÈGE NOTRE-DAME**
Annual Sprint Concert. Featuring the Wind Orchestra as well as Junior and Beginner Harmony Ensembles. Directed by Bertrand Bouchard and Marc Deschamps. A second show will be held on June 1st at 7pm.
*For info: (514) 739-3371, ext. 2499 or musique@collegenotre-dame.qc.ca .*

**May 27 // 5pm**
**GEON-UH YU, VIOLIN**
Geon-uh Yu, student of Eleonora Turovsky. Works by Mozart, Bartok, Poulenc & Stravinsky.
*Tickets at the door only: $5, free for students.*

**May 29 // 5pm**
**KYUNG-HEE KIM, PIANO**
Kyung-hee Kim, student of Gregory Chaverdian. Works by Bach & Prokofiev. With special guest, Luo Di, 'cello.
*Tickets at the door only: $5, free for students.*

**May 29 // 8pm**
**MARIE-ANNE ROZANKOVIC, VIOLIN**
Marie-Anne Rozankovic, student of Francine Pépin. Works by Bach, Beethoven & Ives.
*Tickets at the door only: $5, free for students.*

**May 30 // 8pm**
**A NIGHT OF COMEDY**
A benefit show for The Auxiliary of the Montreal Children's Hospital, featuring Ernie Butler's Comedy Nest Road Show. All proceeds are donated to the Montreal Children's Hospital.
*Tickets: $25. Please call (514) 848-4848 for outlets.*

**May 31 // 8pm**
**MONTREAL CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**
ChamberJazz and Jeans. Featuring Gilles Apap and "The Colors of Invention". Repertoire to be chosen from works by: Scarlatti, Vivaldi, Bartok, Kreisler, Bach, Saraste & others.
*For information or reservations: (514) 489-3444.*

**Tickets are available at the OPCH Box (service charges applicable) unless otherwise indicated. The OPCH Box Office is open Monday-Friday, 9:30AM-Noon & 1:30PM-4:30PM in the OPCH Administration Office (Room SC01-10). The Box Office opens in the lobby one hour prior to ticketed events. Schedule and prices are subject to change. Please consult (514) 848-4848 or http://oscar.concordia.ca to confirm event information.**